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The Path to Prosperity would lift the crushing burden of record high debt, spur economic growth and job creation, and fulfill our Nation's obligations to the health and retirement security of every American.

With the Path to Prosperity, the budget that Republicans adopted in the House 2 weeks ago, Americans will be back on the road to more jobs for today and a bankrupt-free nation for tomorrow.

GAS PRICES AND MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, before I begin to share my thoughts this morning about how the Republican budget is a blow to our American ideas and priorities, I would be remiss if I didn't use this opportunity to praise our men and women in uniform, our President, and his advisers for the extraordinary courage and capability they all demonstrated in the mission that put an end to Osama bin Laden on Sunday.

Being from New York, we know firsthand of the consequences of this horrible, horrible action that Osama bin Laden took on September 11, 2001. I can't tell you how many families in my congressional district were hurt, lost their loved ones, children becoming orphans in ways that it is going to take them years, if forever, to recover.

That is why Sunday was so important. It was a moment in history, our history. We told the world as Americans, we're going to fight not only for each other but we're going to fight for our rights, our ideals that are at the core of our very being.

I would hope that, in the aftermath of Sunday, we would be able to come together in the way that we did after September 11. We need to find more ways to come together. We need to work together for the good of our constituents, for the good of our country. But that doesn't mean that we don't have extraordinary differences of opinion, and that's what I'm here to talk about today. I'm here to talk about the budget that the House Republican majority just passed—and I voted against—on April 15. I believe that that budget is a document that lays out the wrong priorities.

Trust me when I say that I'm as anxious as anyone about our Nation's fiscal policies, but we also need to make sure that, in the process, we do not kill thousands of jobs and hurt millions of American families. A budget, as far as I'm concerned, is a moral document. It should be a declaration of our country's priorities. But the Republican budget does anything but that. It hurts our most vulnerable citizens while giving tax breaks to our oil companies.

I spent over 33 years as a nurse before I came to Congress, and let me tell you, the one thing that strikes me every week when I come down to Washington is the disconnect that I see between a lot of the politicians here and the people who are back home struggling in their districts.

The budget that was passed by Republicans is absolutely out of touch with the people back in my district. How in the world can you undermine the health and well-being of our seniors at the same time that you continue to give the richest companies on the planet tax breaks? That's not what the people in my district want. The seniors, and all the people in my district, want health care. They feel like that as they get older, they want the peace of mind to know that they have access to the greatest health care system in the world. They've paid for that right. As they worked throughout their life, they paid into the Medicare system. They believe that they have the right to Medicare, and I agree with them.

Yet the Republican budget fundamentally undermines that right. The Republican budget ends Medicare as we know it. It eliminates guaranteed coverage for our seniors and turns the program into a voucher program. This is a drastic, drastic concept.

Let's not try to pretty things up here. Republicans are essentially pushing seniors into the private marketplace where they will pay more and get less. As health care keeps rising with inflation, these vouchers will not keep pace. As the Congressional Budget Office has said, Medicare beneficiaries would bear a much larger share of their health care costs. The result would be absolutely awful for our seniors. We are going to see our parents and our sisters and our brothers faced with awful choices: Are they going to pay higher premiums? Are they going to have to get health plans that cover less? Or, even worse, will they drop out and have no health care at all?

Cutting our health care system isn't the only way that families are being hurt. The high price of gas is hurting families across this country and certainly in New York. Across the country and definitely on Long Island, the price of gas has climbed way above \$4. Yet in what is an absolutely mind-boggling position, Republicans in Congress still refuse to allow a vote to repeal the billions of dollars in taxpayer money that oil companies are getting. Exxon, for instance, just took in \$10.7 billion during the first 3 months of the year alone. That's a 69 percent increase over the same time frame from last year. Other companies have enjoyed the same increases, all while continuing to receive \$4 billion annually in subsidies.

Mr. Speaker, we're Americans. We can disagree, but we're supposed to be fighting for this country. We need to make sure we protect our seniors. We need to make sure we have jobs. We need to make sure that we keep this country safe.

God bless America.

The oil companies aren't struggling companies in need of a helping hand. They're companies with huge profits receiving billions of dollars in wasteful government spending.

I'm not a person who is against drilling.

I believe that we need a comprehensive energy policy that takes advantage of clean energy, but also takes advantage of the natural resources that we've been blessed with.

I also believe that we need to be aggressive in taking on the oil speculators who are profiting from the ballooning price of oil.

But what I find particularly abhorrent is that, at a time where Republicans are claiming that our country's fiscal problems are an excuse for us to undermine the needs of our seniors, many of whom live month-to-month, we are at the same time giving oil companies \$4 billion in tax breaks.

Those are not the priorities that I believe in.

And those are not the priorities that my constituents believe in.

A budget is a moral document of our priorities. It should say something about a country's values.

That's why, to turn back to Sunday for a second, that heroic rescue said so much about our country.

Americans persevere, Americans fight for their values, and Americans are unrelenting in their efforts.

But we do those things because we want safety and security for our families.

We want to see our children and grandchildren grow up in a country where fairness and equity is the order of the day.

The Republican budget is not about fairness and equity.

It is about hurting our seniors—and doing so in order to give oil companies, who are wealthy beyond belief, additional tax breaks.

That's not just.

That's not fair.

That is not what I came to Congress to fight for.

STORM AND DISASTER RELIEF IN NORTH CAROLINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. ELLMERS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago on Saturday, April 16, North Carolina was struck with vicious tornadoes that caused unprecedented destruction and despair throughout the State and in my district. The loss of property will take years to rebuild, but the lives that were lost can never be replaced. In an instant, lives were cut short, leaving families with a gaping hole that can never be filled. With over 24 deaths throughout the State, this tragedy has touched each of us on a personal level.

Our district was hit especially hard with six of our 10 counties affected, but thanks to the resources provided by President Obama's emergency declaration and officials at FEMA, we have been able to turn this tragedy into a swift recovery.

On behalf of all North Carolinians, I would like to thank the officials at FEMA, the American Red Cross, the